

WYOMING STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

Meeting Minutes

November 20-21, 2025: Casper, WY

Agenda:

Thursday, November 20, 2025

- Call to Order
- Approval of Minutes
- New Business
- Ongoing Business
- Committee Reports
- Tour of Roosevelt Alternative School

Friday, November 21, 2025

- DFS Update/Report
- Community Participation
- Announcements
- County Highlights
- Adjournment

Present:

Adrienne Freng
Brittany Cangialosi
Damon DeBernardi
Erica Wood
Hattie Calvert
Jennifer Palser
Logan Christie
Melinda Cox
Nathaniel Williams
Nicole Hauser
Ruth Ogden
Stacy Nelson

Ex-Officio Present:

Christina McCabe
Curtis Biggs
Shawn Sitzman
Jacob Edwards
Maggy Laing
Allen Thompson
Joe Belcher

Via Proxy:

Alexandra Bammel

Others Present:

Brandon Schimelpfenig (DFS)
Steve Jett (WYSAC-NPS)
Wendy Leach (WYSAC-NPS)
Laurel Wimbish (WYSAC)
Brooke Benson (WYSAC)
Paul Fritzler (DFS)
Lindsey Williamson (Natrona County School Dist.)
Chris Dresang (Natrona County School Dist.)
Andy Delgado (Natrona County Sheriff's Office)
Jared Holbrook (Natrona County District Atty.'s Office)

Absent:

Alan Stuber
Dale Weber
Dylan Pierce
Erika Sanchez
Kassidy Thomas
Sophia Gomelsky

Call to Order

I. Call to Order: Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 1:00p.

- a) Roll Call/Introductions
- b) Declaration of Quorum; a quorum was established with 13 members present.

II. Approval of Minutes:

September 18-19, 2025 meeting held in Worland, WY; Adrienne Freng motioned to approve the draft minutes; Hattie Calvert seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

III. New Business:

a) Strategic Plan Review

Committees have submitted their respective updates to the Executive Committee for the current Strategic Plan except Executive and Legislative committees. There is a goal to have all the updates to Executive committee for review by December 1, 2025. The Executive committee will be meeting on December 8, 2025 and will be discussing the updates at that time. Logan Christie requested a volunteer from the SACJJ to redesign the Strategic Plan format layout for better usability.

b) Training Updates

Logan requested updates from SACJJ members who attended recent juvenile justice trainings to include the Children's Justice Conference as well as the Alternatives to Suspension training in Denver, CO. Stacy Nelson noted that the Children's Justice conference focused on investigative techniques for child exploitation.

Logan noted that he and Erica Wood attended the Alternatives to Suspension training in Denver, CO and that the training emphasized in-school structured accountability projects over out-of-school suspensions, which Logan and Erica noted can lead to disengagement from juveniles that can already be disinterested in education. Nicole Hauser shared that Albany County utilizes stipulated agreements where students attend a specialized residential campus for therapy and schooling rather than being expelled; ensuring educational continuity.

Jacob Edwards highlighted a free 15–18-hour online course from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on transformative probation, which focuses on modern delinquency best practices.

c) Open Topic Discussion from Members

There was discussion regarding the lack of consistency across counties for Single Point of Entry (SPE) criteria. Adrienne Freng noted Albany County has developed a flowchart and objective criteria to guide prosecutor decision, which was suggested as a potential model for other counties as well. Brittany Cangialosi stated she has drafted a survey to gather data on how different counties handle SPE decisions.

There was also discussion regarding an inquiry from a Colorado-based nonprofit entity submitting a possible partnership however the Executive committee tabled the discussion determining it did not currently align with Title II funding goals of the SACJJ.

d) Public Comment Period

No topics brought forward from the public.

e) SACJJ 2026 Meeting Dates/Locations

Discussion was held with the SACJJ for 2026 meeting dates and locations. Dates and locations chosen are as follows: January 15-16 in Cheyenne; April 16-17 in Powell; June 18-19 in Saratoga; September 17-18 in Pinedale; and November 19-20 in Laramie. Adrienne Freng motioned to approve the slate of meeting dates and locations as discussed; Stacy Nelson seconded the motion; all in favor; motion carried.

IV. On-Going Business – Updates From:

a) Governor’s Meeting/Priority Areas for the SACJJ

Discussion was held regarding an upcoming meeting with Governor Gordon and the SACJJ. Priority areas to present include mental health resources, substance treatment, crisis beds, and juvenile detention centers around the state. It was emphasized the need for objective decision-making tools such as the Wyoming Juvenile Detention Risk Assessment (JDRA) and data sharing across different juvenile justice entities (DFS, CJSBs, WYSAC, etc.).

b) Governor’s Office – Curtis Biggs

Curtis was available via Zoom. He reiterated that mental/behavioral health remains a top priority for the Governor. He highlighted the “Prosper” suicide prevention training and suggested the SACJJ collaborate with the Access to Justice Commission; a standing committee of the Wyoming Judicial Council.

c) Council Membership – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon reported one new applicant however he also noted that the SACJJ needs to continue actively recruiting new members to include non-government applicants.

d) CJSB Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that meetings have taken place between DFS and the CJSBs regarding the revised application process that will be implemented for the upcoming state fiscal biennium. He stated that the CJSBs are moving towards a Request for Application (RFA) process with a heavy focus on outcomes rather than the standard application and contracting process of previous years. He noted the RFA is set to be released to the CJSBs on January 5, 2026.

e) Budget Report/Grant Update – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon stated that Title II 2022 has \$2,253.08 remaining. Title II 2023 has the full \$30,000.00 remaining. Title II 2024 also has the full \$30,000.00 remaining. The 2025 solicitation is expected to be released soon by OJJDP.

f) Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) – Brandon Schimelpfenig

Brandon noted there was a recent juvenile human trafficking victim that he worked with their home state to be returned safely. No other updates.

g) WYSAC – Laurel Wimbish/Brooke Benson

Laurel stated that NPS funds are being released and that Laurel and her team are starting to receive invoices for the applicant counties. Laurel stated that her team is also working on guidance regarding a new interpretation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act from 1996. She noted that federal administration has changed how it should be interpreted and that it applies to NPS awardees. She stated that it says that no Department of Justice grant funding can be used to pay a public benefit to anyone who is not a United States citizen, a permanent resident or certain visa holders, certain asylum recipients and that the University of Wyoming is working on how to meet this requirement; this is effective December 1, 2025.

h) NPS Presentation – Wendy Leach/Steve Jett

Steve noted that he has begun conducting monthly “snapshot” calls to juvenile detention centers around the state. He indicated that all JDCs indicate low bed usage, 21 beds used out of approximately 100 available statewide in the month of November; challenging the narrative that Wyoming over-detains youth. Wendy noted that the NPS grant scope has shifted from compliance monitoring to technical assistance. This shift in focus helps counties improve through tools like the JDRA and service inventories, through an interactive map for each county, rather than negative monitoring attempts. Erica Wood requested a summary of this shift and current NPS achievements for stakeholders. Wendy noted she would be willing to draft up the summary and submit it to Laurel for review before final submission to the SACJJ.

i) Ex-Officio Members

Allen Thompson with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) and Joe Belcher with the Wyoming Guardian Ad Litem’s Office were officially welcomed as appointed Ex-Officio members.

V. Committee Reports

a) Executive Committee – Logan Christie

Logan noted that the committee will be meeting on December 8, 2025 to finalize the Strategic Plan and 2025 Annual Report. Logan also noted that the Financial committee would provide a snapshot of where the Council is with sustainability.

b) Grants Committee – Logan Christie

Logan noted that the committee still needs to meet to get their strategic planning goals updated.

c) Data Committee – Adrienne Freng

Jacob Edwards noted that the committee is currently working on juvenile justice community “report cards” for all counties.

- d) Best Practices Committee – Stacy Nelson
Stacy noted that they met and that they are working on the services repository in collaboration with Wendy and Steve with WYSAC-NPS to create an interactive map of services around the state. Stacy also noted about changing verbiage within their portion of the strategic plan from best practices to “promising practices.”
- e) Outreach/Youth Committee – Erica Wood, Brittany Cangialosi
Erica noted that the committee met and stated that the quarterly newsletter is nearing completion.
- f) Legislative Committee – Nicole Hauser
Nicole noted that the committee met and are currently reviewing their portion of the strategic plan and that standard operating procedures for the committee regarding legislative responses are being refined. She also noted the committee is tracking the Governor’s budget that was recently submitted to legislature as well as the CJSB budget within the standard operating budget for DFS.
- g) Ad-Hoc Committee – Brittany Cangialosi
No updates.

Friday, November 21, 2025

VI. DFS Update

Brandon Schimelpfenig provided the DFS update on behalf of agency administration. He noted that the Governor approved the full DFS budget request which included CJSB funding. The budget has since moved to the Wyoming Legislature for final review and approval. Adrienne asked Brandon if there were any additional budget requests from DFS such as exception requests. Jacob noted that DFS requested additional funding for its adult protective services (APS) budget as well as additional funding for its Independent Living (IL) program

Brandon also briefly shared some statistics provided by administration. He noted that DFS reported 3,226 total cases between child protection, juvenile justice, and adult protection services in SFY 2025. He also noted that staff turnover staff turnover from 2023 to 2024 decreased to 14.8% but rose slightly in 2024 to 2025 to 16.9% overall. Brandon shared that DFS is implementing new “Lead Worker” positions throughout the state to work complex cases and assist with training/mentoring new staff to improve retention. Paul Fritzler, DFS District Manager for Natrona County, noted that there will be 18 total Lead Worker positions throughout the state and that these are not new positions but rather current caseworker positions that are being reclassified from SOSP08 to SOSP09.

VII. Community Participation

- a) Natrona County DFS

Paul Fritzler with Natrona County DFS was present to discuss trends the local office is seeing. He noted that there are 7 probation staff with 1 supervisor and there are currently 97 active juvenile services cases with 55 being standard probation. Paul stated that Natrona County currently has 27 placements.

b) Natrona County CJSB

Paul Fritzler spoke on the services provided by CJSB funding. He noted that the Natrona County CJSB completed a new strategic plan in March 2025 and that they are currently working with the Natrona County Health Collective and WYSAC to perform a gap analysis. He also noted that some funding is spread throughout various agencies to include but not limited to Mercer House, drug testing for juveniles, and also adolescent intensive outpatient services (IOP) through Wyoming Behavioral Institute (WBI). He also noted that there is positive collaboration involving the District Attorney's office, Natrona County schools, local DFS, and Circuit Court. Agents assigned to Student Court have a higher contact frequency with youth (weekly) compared to standard probation due to the intensity of the program. Paul also highlighted the Mercer House Pre-CHINS program where it attempts to engage families in case planning regarding attendance or behavior before a formal CHINS petition is filed in court. Paul also spoke briefly on the new "Journey.Do" app which is a personal growth platform/app for probationers and allows youth to tell their story and receive coaching, serving as a sanction tool or to distribute assignments.

c) Natrona County District Attorney's Office

Jared Holbrook, Assistant District Attorney for Natrona County, was present to discuss what the District Attorney's office is seeing regarding juvenile justice. He discussed the SPE process and that a significant challenge is the 14-day filing rule in Circuit Court where prosecutors often have to file charges immediately to meet the deadline, which tends to undermine diversion efforts. Jared suggested a rule change specific to juvenile to allow time for pre-court diversion programs or classes. Highlighted concerning trends with juveniles in the area is the amount of juvenile violence among younger offenders (ages 10-12) and high-needs youth requiring out-of-state placement. The current system struggles with this demographic because detention is often inappropriate for their age, yet those juveniles still pose a safety risk to the community due to their violent charges. Jared also noted that the current state statute limits fines for tobacco/vaping offenses which he said is insufficient to deter addiction or compel parents to enforce rules. Consequently, the legal system cannot mandate addiction treatment classes because the penalty is only a minor fine.

d) Natrona County School District Representative

Chris Dresang, Student Support Services Director for Natrona County School District, and Lindsey Williamson, Asst. Student Support Services Director for Natrona County School District, were present to discuss what types of trends they are seeing in the schools in Natrona County. Chris noted that there have been recent "posturing" instances on social media, specifically Snapchat which

fuels violence amongst youth. Students may not be bullied face-to-face but streams of message and rumors circulate online which can lead to physical fights at school to “save face.” Chris also noted that some of the younger juveniles in his program keep coming back and recidivate as they get older. Logan shared that SACJJ will share the SACJJ information obtained from the recently attended suspension training with Chris.

e) **Natrona County School Resource Officer (SRO)**

Andy Delgadillo, Natrona County SRO, was present via Zoom to present on trends he’s seeing as an SRO. Andy reiterated the massive collaboration between all the agencies within Natrona county.

VIII. County Highlights

The SACJJ briefly highlighted key areas from the meeting.

- Collaboration amongst all entities is a strength for Natrona county.
- Efforts to keep students enrolled in school while also holding them accountable for their actions.
- Natrona county is struggling with the dynamic of having to hold young juvenile offenders with mental health concerns in secure detention as detention is not set up for youthful offenders.

IX. Announcements

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 15-16, 2026, in Cheyenne, WY.

X. Adjournment

Ruth Ogden motioned to adjourn the meeting; Adrienne Freng seconded the motion; all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.